

Ten years of the William Mulloy Library at the Sebastián Englert Museum on Rapa Nui

Brigid Mulloy

On Saturday, January 26th, 2013, the Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert (MAPSE) celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Mulloy Library with the opening of a special exhibition: "WILLIAM MULLOY". At 12:00 noon, a small crowd gathered outside of the MAPSE to hear the welcoming introduction by the museum and library staff. José Miguel Ramírez, archaeologist, spoke about the William Mulloy legacy and its importance to Rapa Nui archaeology. Brigid Mulloy spoke for the Mulloy family, thanking the museum for sheltering the William Mulloy Library and developing it into something even greater and more vital than the original family vision.

The exhibit was launched in the round hall to the right of the entrance to the Sebastián Englert Museum. Large floor-to-ceiling panels with photographs as the background to text described the history of William Mulloy's association with Rapa Nui. Individual panels described the archaeological sites and the process of

their restoration. The history of the Mulloy Library was detailed and some of its rare books were on display. Lilian López Labbé, who has been the Librarian for the Mulloy Library since its opening in October 2002, designed the exhibit.

The excitement was palpable as the community entered to view the exhibit for the first time. The original (now antique) archaeological tools used by Mulloy and his crew were in the center of the display. Rafael Rapu, who was trained to map and photograph in the 1960s when working with Mulloy, said when he saw the mapping table, it was very emotional and took him back to that time.

There was a reception with wine and snacks in the courtyard after the opening that provided a wonderful opportunity for old friends to reconnect and talk about the early days of Rapa Nui archaeology. The William Mulloy exhibit remained open and free to the public for several months.



Figure 1. Josefina Nahoe Mulloy, granddaughter of William Mulloy viewing the exhibit.



Figure 2. Rafael Rapu and Brigid Mulloy looking at the old mapping table.



Figure 3. Brigid with Gonzalo Figueroa's grandsons Sebastián and Nicolas Yancovic Pakarati at the entrance to the exhibit.



Figure 4. José Miguel Ramírez, Lilian López Labbé, and Brigid Mulloy.



Figure 5. The Mulloy surveying and mapping tools.